BULLETIN from

Virginia Kirkus' Bookshop Service & 38 Bank Street

Vol. XVIII October 15th, 1950 No. 20

F I C T I O N

MUST BOOK

December 27

Barker, Shirley — Crown $3.00

RIVERS PARTING

The author of the well-received *Peace, My Daughters*, leaves the specialty field and enters that of historical fiction on a broader scale. For this is a novel of the 17th century, of new men for a new country and of their growing into it. John Scarlock leaves his loved acres in Nottingham to help to colonize New Hampshire; his beloved Joan follows him there, and with him fights the domination of the godly who would subjugate Strawberry Bank. Their only son, Will, when John dies, leaves Harvard to become the man of the family and follow his father's faith in the forests of their home, goes to England to get the commission for masts and to decide in which land to cast his lot. Through the plague he meets Doll and marries her but with the great fire he knows his real love is for Nan, and New Hampshire his heart's home. Back in Portsmouth (the new name for Strawberry Bank) it is Doll who saves the mast trade when the godly would ruin Will and who gives him the chance to have his Nancy. The love of a sown field, the stubborn, bitter and unruly men of the old, hard days, the poor little ships that brought them to the wilderness, and the women to whom the men are all- caught here with simplicity and dignity and a certain poetic magic. Literary Guild for January.

PROBLEMATICAL BOOKS

November 1

Dean, Terry — Arcadia House $2.00

HEAVEN BELOW

A mixed, and mixed up foursome, when Barbara Kenilworth, Assistant Professor, and Augustus Severing, the colleague she is to marry, are beleaguered by Bob and Maxine, show people, who quickly endanger Barbara's position on the campus and her love for Augustus. When Augustus is loosened up by Maxine, warms to her charm, Barbara is left to Bob and his attentions which begin in pique end in all seriousness... The old switcheroo, in one of its scrappier versions.

Gaddis, Peggy — Arcadia House $2.00

COME INTO MY HEART

When Kerry loses her chance to go North from Florida to model because playboy Dud Waterman trips her up at a fashion show, she takes his offer to get her a job with his half-brother, Jeff, at the family cattle ranch. There she shows Jeff what a good secretary she is, proves she isn't gold-digging for Dud, and winds up her own romance in the company of wedding bells for others. Love stuff with better than average values.

Lemar, May — Gramercy $2.00

AILEEN ROGERS

That troubled road to romance for Aileen Rogers who is loved by Johnny Attwood, a banker's son, whose father opposes their marriage, and by David Oliver, a commercial artist,

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who gives her a chance in his line. With the suicide of Johnny's father, Aileen is stigmatized by the scandal, Johnny is left jobless and moneyless. But the tragedy serves its purpose as it makes a man of Johnny, proves his worth to Aileen who passes up a career for that occupation housewife... Sugar, and no spice.

November 10

Mayrant, Drayton — Appleton-Century-Crofts

FIRST THE BLADE — $3.00

The author of *The Sword From Galway* and *The Running Thread* goes further back in history for the story from the Bible. Procla, granddaughter of Augustus, is brought up in island isolation on Pandataria where her mother has been exiled, and gets her first rumors of Christianity through the sewing woman, of Jewish persecution through the shepherd, Yod, and of the world outside through her tutor. With her mother's murder, Procla is sent to Rome, acknowledged by Tiberius as his daughter, and there learns her love for Draco, the soldier, is reciprocated. But Tiberius, in insane vengeance, forces her marriage to Pontius Pilate and sends them to Caesarea to deal with the threat of the new Messiah. Procla watches Pilate's vacillating, arrogant treatment of the Jews, realizes the political cleft fork that holds him, and goes with him into exile after the crucifixion. In Helvetia she nurses him through the tortures of his conscience until he commits suicide and is at last able to find happiness with Draco. The popular treatment again for the Roman decadence, the conflict caused by the new religion, and a heroine who accepts, but does not submit to, her fate. (People's Book Club for November.)

Blair, Cornelia — Duell, Sloan & Pearce

THE NORA BLAKE STORY — $2.75

A variation of a fairly hand me down theme, this tells of Nora Drake who never forgets the no-good father who had been responsible for the death of her mother, shies away from the many men she attracts. In training to become a nurse, Nora meets young Roger Cooper, son of a famous surgeon, and it is not long before Cooper senior, a widower, offers her everything- including marriage. Never sure of her feelings for either Roger, or his father, the devious interference of the latter brings about her break with Roger, makes her realize her love for him, and brings her to the marriage she had evaded...For rent only, this is permissible, passable.

November 15

Eden, Rob — Gramercy

MR. GENEROUS — $2.00

Standard cops and robbers fare with a leavening of lurv--this tells of secretary Joyce who attracts a fur-bearing fairy godfather, a gem-gathering gigolo and an interstate gang of car thieves, all during the week she quarrels with boyfriend Nick. The godfather proves generous, the gigolo is jailed and brave little Joyce breaks up the hot car ring with the aid of an understanding police captain--and Joyce and Nick clinch for the fadeaway. Reads like the bottom half of a mid-week double feature.

Millburn, Cynthia — Arcadia House

GOLDEN ACRES — $2.00

The story of a young widow's problems, heartbreak and loneliness, following her husband's death, when she tries to win over his two children and keep his Oregon bulb farm producing. Megan wants no more of men after Nick's death, until she meets her stepson's favorite teacher, Birch Tallent, yearner for a return to the soil, and she accomplishes remarriage on a moonlight walk with Birch to the old pasture gate. More material here than is usual in this medium, in a treatment which is smooth and sympathetic.

December 28

Mergendahl, Charles — Doubleday $3.00

IT'S ONLY TEMPORARY

Report repeated from the May 1st bulletin when scheduled for earlier publication- as follows: "What happens when the vet goes into a housing development- only as a temporary measure? This is the crux of Don and Shelley's life when they move into Camptown- knowing that- with financial security- they can move to Montana for a sure, small business, when they find that living with a purpose must meet its compromises as pressures grow and as events change the shape of things to come. For there are the Morrises, both determined to move on to bigger and better backgrounds, at the cost of all personal honesty; the Silers who are coming up the hard-working way; the McDermots whose marriage drafts further and further to the point of no return until near-tragedy re-establishes it; the Littles whose budget offers them compensation and promise;- all these to point up and add to the Cousins' attempts to be different and to break away. And when it comes to the showdown- with Cathy having her second child, it is a hostage to fortune they offer, to stay on at Camptown and put Montana on the calendar for the next year. There is a compassionate comprehension of the attitudes and responses of the younger marrieds here, a tenderness for the touchy spots of economic and emotional relationships, an unsparing reportage of 'better living' in modern housing, that brings this close to many homes, and should make it appealing reading for many a community project."

TARDY TWOSOME

Hamill, Ethel — Avalon $2.00

HONEYMOON IN HONOLULU

The haze of sweet lei-lani misting over the love of Pruella (sic) for Matt Kendrick, whom she is booked to marry on her arrival in Hawaii. But once there she finds that her previous pursuit by Brady Edwards is a hot talking point, that even Matt is susceptible to suspicion, and when she stages an impromptu wedding, she is further victimized when some stolen jewels are found in her room. It is only later that her best friend's malicious intervention is exposed, reparations made and Matt returned to her... Just one long flurry of feelings- on the sentimental side. (10/27)

Shipman, Natalie — Avalon $2.00

FOLLOW YOUR HEART

The love of Ellie for John Westbrook, and her protective concern over Dan Monroe, her adopted, younger brother who had been left difficult and defiant after his mother's death and who is now involved with a diamond pin he refuses to explain away. Afraid to leave Dan, or to have John suspect him of theft, Ellie postpones her marriage to John who is also worried by his younger sister Iris, wild and willful. It is Dan who breaks up Iris' involvement with a racketeer, proves his own innocence and wins her love, while the chaperonage of Ellie and John- which occasions a rift- ends in reconcilation... Compatible for conservative tastes and romantic enough for others. (10/27)

A FLIGHTY FIVE

October 20

Morton, Anthony — Duell, Sloan & Pearce $2.50

CAREER FOR THE BARON

John Mannering, still with the threat of being exposed as the Baron, is now hewing to the respectable life but gets a chance at some remembered thrills when he tries to

buy an antique shop. Before the deal is completed there are murders, smuggling, antique switching, and Mannering plays ball, in his fashion, with the Yard and reverts to second story techniques to wind up his adventures. Acrobatic.

October 30

Sinak, Clifford D. Gnome Press
COSMIC ENGINEERS $2.50

Space fever flavored once again with the threat to the universe and a girl, who has been in suspended animation for a thousand years, the means by which such danger is averted. Through her sensitivity she and the men who rescued her are put in touch with the Engineers and through them, with earth,and there learn the secret by which All Can Be Saved. For hot rocket-eers only.

November 1

Bangert, Ethel Arcadia
DAWN OF ROMANCE $2.00

When a poor little orphaned rich girl decides to marry the only man who has asked her, she finds that his family presents a distasteful obstacle. With two murders adding to the unpleasantness, she joins with the family lawyer in snooping out the truth and switches her marital choice to him. You can brood over the title.

November 9

Fenisong, Ruth Doubleday
GRIM REHEARSAL $2.50

Uncle Doc hadn't an enemy in the world, and his foster son, Pierce Kirby, thought he was giving him a treat in New York, never dreaming it would end in murder. When a chorus girl disappeared - and Drake, a playboy, was suspected of abducting, and then killing her, and doing a disappearance himself,- the link between the incidents was tenuous but possible, so Pierce horned in on the investigation which trailed false clues in and around New York, before a body was washed up on Long Island shore - the chorus girl was found alive and ready to talk - and a lawyer on the make was proved partner in crime. Complicated- and not completely resolved- but good reading.

November 22

Little, Constance & Gwenyth Doubleday
THE BLACK SMITH $2.50

Some further romantic- and necromantic- foolishness, this saunters saucily through the disappearances, dismemberments and simple murders which make a morgue out of the hospital to which Judith Onslow is assigned. The concealed illegitimacy of a son, the identity of a disowned daughter, blackmail and inheritance play a part in a non-institutional romp which will not pass stricter standards in this field.

NON - FICTION

PROBLEMATICAL BOOKS

October 26

Kelley, Frank & Ryan, Cornelius — Doubleday
MACARTHUR: *Man of Action* — $2.00

A best face forward presentation of a famous figure, this admits the hostility he has aroused as well as the hostility, explains the embittering experience as Chief of Staff which has motivated his overbearing tactics, and gives full due to the brilliance, the determination, the stamina and severity of a great general. The biography traces his military background and the tremendous influence of his mother; his first marriage to a divorcee socialite and the second marriage to Jean who softened his austerity; his World War I career- a "hell to breakfast baby" who was loved by the men under him; his appointment as Chief of Staff in 1930 which caused considerable resentment in Washington; his retirement- and his recall after Pearl Harbor and the gallantry of his stand in the Philippines; his rule of post-war Japan and the charter of liberty he gave to the people; his handling of the Russians, first at the council table, and later in the open conflict in Korea... The audience for this will be chiefly among his admirers, although the current crisis will lend an increased interest and impetus.

Green, A. Wigfall — Public Affairs Press
THE EPIC OF KOREA — $2.50

Brief but packed with facts important to the understanding of the Korean background. Much of the material overlaps the Oliver book (see report P. 621), and is in general agreement, though the criticism of American failures of procedure is even sharper in this book, written by a former member of the American military occupation forces. Mr. Green devotes about one third of his book to an analysis of the country, the people, the history, the foreign infiltration - and the persistence of the Korean dream through successive generations in bondage. The focus is sharper when it comes to the period of American occupation, and he spares nothing in pointing out the basic causes of failure. Where Oliver's text substantiates his warnings over the years and is related more to the evidence of pending war- Green's attack is on the inadequacies of performance in the cause of democracy. Where one might feel that Oliver's partisanship of President Rhee weakens his argument, one could wish for more concentration on personalities in the Green book, which is almost devoid of it. And again, here is a book without an index, though at least it offers more in the way of documentation than its predecessor.

Henry, Thomas R. — Sloane
THE WHITE CONTINENT — $3.75

A long and penetrating look at the mysterious, shrouded continent at the South Pole where the world is eternally white--accented with dazzling rainbows and the eerie green sky curtains of the Aurora Australis--and the most conspicuous inhabitants are the seemingly man-like, formally dressed and beautifully mannered Emperor Penguins who greet all explorers with stately bows. Here are chapters on the confusing, criss-crossing mountain systems, on the tragic race between an Englishman and a Norwegian for the South Pole, historical and recent explorations, the scant fauna and flora--penguins, seals, whales and several varieties of birds, as well as mosses and lichens, the weird and woolly weather, and the rivers and lakes of cold blue ice. All of the still scant information about the world's least known continent is presented in a manner to elucidate and delight all arm-chair explorers from boy scout age on up.

October 27

Orwell, George — Harcourt, Brace

SHOOTING AN ELEPHANT — $2.75

A collection of eighteen essays by the author of *Nineteen Eighty Four* and *Animal Farm*, etc. these represent the last of his finished work. There is excellent reading here, whether it be the title piece on the English colonial attitude, or his thoughts on books, poetry, cigarettes, a report on a hanging and a death, reflections on Gandhi, a toad, English murder, and other assorted topics, and in the field of the essay this provides fine style as well as stimulating thinking. For the selective reader as well as his established followers.

October ~~30~~ 11/17

Streeseman, Adele, M.D. — Coward-McCann

YOU'RE HUMAN, TOO! — $3.00

Some psychoanalytic insights, in non-technical terms, on the motives and mechanisms which are to be found in everyone, to some degree, and which make up the universality of all behaviour. Here are the mainsprings of guilt, fear, hostility and aggression as they are released in neurotic tendencies, in murder, suicide, promiscuity, homosexuality, alcoholism, gambling, hypocrisy, stuttering, the reactionary or the revolutionary impulse, genius, etc. Some highly interesting casework establishes the patterns here for a study which if popular, is more scientific than the title would indicate, and which establishes the importance of psychotherapy- not self-administered.

November 3

Read, Herbert — New Directions

PHASES OF ENGLISH POETRY — $1.50

A new edition of the book published in 1928 with two new chapters, by the well-known British poet and critic. The author, aware of poetry as an intensification and communication of human experience, discusses aspects of poetry along qualitative lines. The two new chapters - "Poetry and Love" and "Poetry and Sentiment" reveal a vital scholarship and a sensitivity to evocative expression. Again in the last chapter the author speaks for a poetry which answers the emotional needs of a people, although feeling the demands of a more subtle expression. Stimulating and invaluable for students and lit'ry lads and lasses.

November 8

Roosevelt, Elliott- *Ed.* — Duell, Sloan & Pearce

F.D.R.: *His Personal Letters*- Vol. III — $10.00

The third and last volume of the personal letters is probably more important than either of the other volumes (published in 1947 and 1948), particularly in view of the way in which these letters somehow round out material that has appeared elsewhere. Inevitably, there is more official or semi-official matter in the correspondence, even the "personal" correspondence. The period covered is from 1929-45, so it embraces the years in Albany and the Presidency. One of the most interesting aspects of these letters is the sense one gets of the long-term continuity in his associations and friendships, in his ability to retain warmth of personal feeling even when political differences, even bitternesses, exist. One realizes very fully the amount of work and thought that goes into preparation for moves,- appointments, proposals, etc. The scope of his interests- lay and professional- comes out in many of the letters, and the contagion of his charm is recurrently there. The humor (example- his memo to Mrs. Roosevelt on chicken and sweetbreads on the menu) is a very vital part of his writing. Family letters are included chiefly as they contribute to the chronology of events. In the main, a skilful piece of editing. The introductions to each group of letters (arranged a year at a time) place the historical and immediate setting; the notes that follow individual letters place names, allusions, incidents needed to clarify the content....The market will be largely determined by the earlier volumes.

November 22

Lasker, Edward — Doubleday

THE ADVENTURE OF CHESS — $3.50

Pleasant rambling reminiscences for old hands and easy and rewarding reading for the novice is this enlightening bit of chess miscellany by the president of the American Chess Masters and author of *Modern Chess Strategy* (1945) - (no relation to the great Emanuel Lasker). Opening with some odds and ends in fact and legend about the origins of the game, Mr. Lasker advances with tours of "chess countries" - developments, innovators and players. A master of the middle game, Mr. Lasker then discusses the aesthetic, scientific and mathematical aspects of the royal game with a brilliant defense of its stimulating qualities. There is also some virtuoso work with candids of Emanuel Lasker, Capablanca and Alekine, men with whom the author has played; and fascinating anecdotes about famous amateur chess players; Napoleon (poor), Benjamin Franklin (who drew moral lessons thereby) and King Ferdinand of Spain (whose benevolent mood after winning a difficult game resulted in his permission to allow Columbus to carry on). The chapters at the end of the book contain rules and pats on the back for beginners. Plus sales for those who would like to learn. Illustrated.

Announcing for November 22

Reed, Chester A. — Doubleday

BIRD GUIDE — cloth, cellophane - $1.50

Land Birds East of the Rockies — fabricoid - $1.95

A re-issue of this helpful guide which is completely revised and printed from new color plates made from the original illustrations. There are 222 species described in the text and there are over 300 full-color pictures.

Waldeck, R. G. — Doubleday

EUROPE BETWEEN THE ACTS 1/11/51 — $3.~~00~~ 50

A wide, if not deeply penetrating, coverage of assorted countries and characters by an historical novelist has its quota of interesting anecdote and interpretation. From the austerity practiced in London, to the re-emergence of Parisian life, to a long profile of Rommel, the man and the legend, this ranges on to Germany, Belgium, Holland, the Northern countries, Switzerland, and Italy, and with its feminine point of view embroiders on the little incidents, the passing gossip, the climate current at each stopping place. And with a novelist's touch she gives the dramatic note to conversations, personalities and the stories of survival which she retells. The tangibles here are neatly caught while the intangibles of political atmosphere are personally argued, and the whole adds up to a readable travelogue.

November 28

Gruber, Ruth — A. A. Wyn

ISRAEL WITHOUT TEARS — $3.00

An admiring overall of Israel today, which lightens the cast of its grim inception and pioneering progress with considerable humor and native anecdotes. Here is this "country built out of death for life", made up of a variety of peoples- some seeking refuge, others faiths. There is the character of their three cities, Haifa, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem; of their farming communities and its unique pattern- the kibbutz; of their language; of their Sabbath; of the general tenor of democracy which prevails; of their music- and their theaters. And there are the individual accounts of the children's migration and the migration out of Yeme; of the fortress colony Negba and the wild west frontier town Beersheba; and of the government today. An appendix includes all kinds of details on transportation, clothes, currency, hotels, restaurants, etc. for the prospective visitor. A good,general picture of the country and its people.

December 6

Dodge, Martin — Farrar, Straus (distributing for American Viewpoints, Inc.) $2.00

KNOW YOUR ISMS

A primer of definitions which uses simple terminology to explore the various forms of social and political theory. From the Utopias, on through Democracy, to Socialism, Communism, Fascism, Nazism, the various ideas are presented first with their history, then with the examination of their concepts and of the known state of current existence under their regimes, and throughout the "isms" are capitalized so that there is no chance of confusion. A handy, explicit guide to the proper understanding of the many labels and terms in use today, this should be a good reference book for clarifying their use and for understanding their meaning.

December 20

Sweetman, Luke D. — Caxton $3.00

BACKTRAILING ON OPEN RANGE

An untouched up account of an old-timer, this goes back to 1885 and Montana where for some time he joined the L U Bar, follows down through the years and a life of buying and trading horses, on his own. There are the days and the nights on the range; the roping and handling of steer; the hunting of antelopes; coyotes and bears and wolves; and the many years of handling horses, wild and gentle, in a casual chronicle, of indigenous interest.

December 29

Kloss, Phillips — Caxton $3.00

DOMINANT SEVENTH

A page of this syrupy gibberish convinces the reader that the poet cut his Poetry 1A classes rather liberally. Apparently the material required to produce such peculiar "poetry" is a story from *True Romances*, scissors and a pot of paste, as the long poem consists of high-school sophomore prose hacked into small chunks. All about a suffering pianist and his search for the Light. Strictly from vanity publishing.

PUBLISHED

The Library of Great Painters — Harry N. Abrams-53 E. 77th St. NYC 21

RENOIR - With Introduction by Walter Pach
VAN GOGH- With Introduction by Meyer Schapiro
EL GRECO- With Introduction by Leon Bronstein

Pre-publication-$8.50 each
Post-publication-$10.00

* If you have ever wanted to attend a one man show in the company of an art critic who seems able to get into the mind of the artist and interpret not only his techniques, but the processes by which he arrived at his composition, his color effects, his objectives- here is your chance. In three volumes, the most beautiful art books we have seen, just this result is achieved. The color reproductions- fifty in each volume - have captured faithfully the full value of the originals, in color, light, texture, in flesh tints, in gradations of tone. In the RENOIR, Walter Pach shares with the reader his own years of knowing Renoir. His Introductory material is part biographical, part interpretative; the phases of Renoir's life that were integral to his work are stressed, the external factors indicated. Then, in the descriptive text opposite each reproduction of a painting, one is taken behind the scenes, made to feel the artist's emotions and thinking, to understand and appreciate the meaning of the specific painting....From Schapiro, one gets a sympathetic comprehension of Van Gogh, his tortured mind, and sensitive spirit. There is less of biographical detail (perhaps because of greater familiarity) and more interpretation of the

spirit. And again, each painting is presented individually...The EL GRECO we have not seen, but the sample reproductions show the same faithful exactness - the same artistic achievement, and Prof. Bronstein of the Asia Institute has, in his text, analyzed the strange interrelation of El Greco's art and his country and his Church. These books are MUSTS for anyone interested in collecting the best of art in book form. Congratulations on a courageous - and successful venture. (Publ.)

Christensen, Erwin O. Macmillan
THE INDEX OF AMERICAN DESIGN $15.00

One of the most beautiful books of the year and a major contribution to the literature of Americana, this is a carefully selected panorama of the monumental Index of American Design. From many thousand plates, watercolors by many artists under the WPA art project, 400 have been chosen as recording the craftsmen of early America, the decorative and domestic art created on American soil, and reflecting the basic American elements. The author of the text is the curator of the Index, and though the text is virtually expanded descriptive captions closely linked with the plates, in its continuity it creates an effect of surveying the facets of American design. The selection of material was made on the basis of artistic merit; the arrangement is now geographic, now historical; some groups represent life at home, or on the frontier, or in the more comfortable 19th century, while others show the arts of transplanted groups, minority groups, and so on. It is a fascinating record - and a superb piece of book making. (10/17)

PLEASE NOTE THESE CHANGES IN TITLE, DATE AND PRICE

Page

404- Hill, Ralph N.- CONTRARY COUNTRY- from 9/14 to 10/26 (Rinehart)

458- Wilson, Edmond- CLASSICS AND COMMERCIALS- from 10/13 to 11/10 (Farrar, Straus)

545- Cater, Ruth C.- TREE TRAILS AND HOBBIES- from 10/26 to 11/9 (Doubleday)

550- Fowlie, Wallace- AGE OF SURREALISM- This is a Swallow Press book. (Morrow)

575- Arms & Kuntz- POETRY EXPLICATION- postponed to 11/1 (Morrow-Swallow)

579- Seranne, Ann- THE COMPLETE BOOK OF HOME BAKING- from 10/26 to 11/22 (Doubleday)

593 (R) Cronin, John F.- CATHOLIC SOCIAL PRINCIPLES- price from $3.50 to $6.00 (Bruce)

603 (R) Bolshakoff, Serge- Title from THE STORY OF UNOFFICIAL RELIGION IN RUSSIA to RUSSIAN NONCOFORMITY. The former is the subtitle. (Westminster)

623- Gawer & Michelman- BODY CONTROL- price from $3.00 to $2.00 (Crown)

628- Lynes, Russell- SNOBS- definite date 11/15 (Harper)